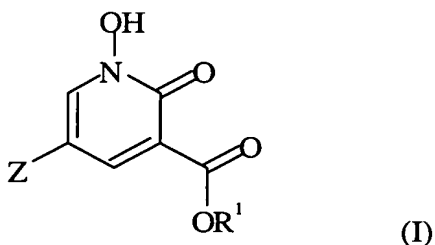


Abstract

The present invention relates to pyridinone derivatives of formula (I):



wherein Z represents C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted, and R¹ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, 10 C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkoxycarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, useful in the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C virus infections.